

MED. INTEL



U R B A N D I S T R I C T o f H E C K M O N D W I K E .
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A N N U A L R E P O R T .

for 1941.

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R o f H E A L T H

C. GRANT NICOL, M.B., B.S. (Lond.). D.P.H.

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HECKMONDWIKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1941

To the Chairman and Members of the Heckmondwike
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for 1941 on the
health and sanitary circumstances of the District.

This Report is compiled on lines suggested by the
Ministry of Health, and while it is perhaps a little full for
a War-time Report, I feel that the close attention and interest
given by all Members to health matters justifies it's length.

As Members are aware, your former Medical Officer,
Dr. G.H. Pearce, retired in July, after more than 32 years in
that Office, and I succeeded as the first holder of the newly
created post of joint Medical Officer of Health for Heckmondwike
and Mirfield, combined with certain duties under the West Riding
County Council. As a result of this arrangement, your Medical
Officer acts also as School Medical Inspector for the District.

Broadly speaking, the past year has been a healthy one-
there has been no outbreak of severe Infectious Disease, there has
once again been no Maternal Death and the Infant Mortality Rate
approximates closely to that for England and Wales.

Reference to any special points of interest will be
found under the several headings of the Report, while statistics
have been reduced to the minimum.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the great help
given me by the Sanitary Inspector and the Health Visitor, and to
express my thanks to the Members of the Council and to my fellow
Officials for the kind reception they have given me.

I am, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

C. Grant Nicol.

<u>General Statistics.</u>	Area (in acres)	696.
	Population(Registrar-General's estimate)	8,459.
	Population(as per ration books)	8,319.
	Number of Inhabited Houses	2,674.
	Number of Separate Families	2,533.(1931 Census)
	Rateable Value	£48,292
	Product of a penny rate	£ 185

Vital Statistics.

Births. The nett live births number 118,
(65 male, 53 female)
The Birth Rate is therefore 13.95.

Still-births. numbered 6,
(5 male, 1 female)
Rate per 1,000
civilian population 0.71.

Deaths. totalled 119,
(56 male, 63 female)
giving a death-rate (crude) of 14.06.

(Note : the preparation and issue of the customary Areal Comparability factor has not been practicable this Year, so that the death-rate cannot be shown in a "corrected" form)

Maternal Mortality. I have pleasure in recording the fact that there has been no Maternal Death during 1941.

Infant Mortality. Deaths of children under one year numbered 7 (5 male, 2 female), giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 58.3.

Diarrhoea under 2 years: There were no deaths from this cause.

Comparative Figures.

(Rate per 1,000 civilian population)	England & Wales.	148 smaller Towns.	Heckmondwike 1940.	1941.
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Live Births.	14.2	16.4	11.9	13.95.
Still Births	0.51.	0.60.	0.59	0.71.
Deaths(all causes)	12.9	13.	15.1	14.06.

(Rates per 1,000
live births)

Infant Mortality.	59.	56.	58.8	58.
Diarrhoea under 2 years	5.1	4.6.	9.9	nil.

(Rates per 1,000
total births)

Maternal Mortality	2.23.	not available	nil	nil
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Causes of Death.

Typhoid & Paratyphoid	nil	Bronchitis	8
Cerebrospinal Fever	2	Pneumonia	nil
Scarlet Fever	nil	Ulcer Stomach or	
Whooping Cough	2	Duodenum	1
Diphtheria	nil	Other Digestive	
Tuberculosis (Respt)	3	Disturbances	2
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	1	Anthrax	1
Influenza	2	Nephritis	3
Measles	nil	Premature Birth	2
Cancer (all sites)	20	Congenital	
Diabetes	2	malformations, Birth	
Intra-cranial vascular		Injuries, etc.	4
lesions	17	Suicide	nil
Heart disease	34	Road Traffic	
Other diseases of		Accidents	1
Circulatory System	2	All other causes	11

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

It is the wish of the Ministry that remarks under this section should be confined to important alterations, rather than a recital of long-standing arrangements. There is no such important change to record.

Maternity and Nursing Homes. During 1941, the Registrar reported the registration of the births of 128 infants born in the home. Of these, the parents of 37 resided in Heckmondwike, and 91 resided elsewhere. 3 still births occurred in the home, the parents of two of which did not reside in this town.

Ante-Natal Clinic. I am indebted to Dr. Agnes W. Jervis, Medical Officer to the Ante-Natal Clinic, for the following Report:-

Individual patients attending the Clinic	87.
Patients found normal	30.
Patients found suffering from one or more defects	57
Total number of attendances at Clinic	214.
Average attendance per patient	2.4

Defects classified

Respiratory excluding Tuberculosis	1
Circulatory excluding varicose veins	8
Digestive excluding defective teeth and constipation	nil
Urinary system	10
Small or deformed pelvis	2
Varicose veins	24
Haemorrhoids	14
Constipation	30
Defective teeth and Pyorrhoea	28
Anaemia and debility	12
Miscellaneous	3

History of Labours.

Normal deliveries	60
Twin pregnancy	1
Induction	nil
Instrumental delivery	3
Caesarean section	1
Placenta praevia	nil
Still births	2
(a) Forceps delivery	
(b) Large child, impacted shoulder	
Maternal deaths	nil
Post natal cases	3
Cases not yet delivered(December 31st, 1941)	17
Cases transferred to other districts	3
Miscarriage	1

"To the Medical Officer of Health
Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report on the work of the Ante-Natal Clinic for the Year 1941. The cases dealt with number 87, which is an increase of 17 on the figures for the previous year. This increase is partly explained by the residence in the district of women from bombed areas who contributed 5 of the total cases, and partly by the improved attendance of Mothers at the Clinic.

A complete analysis of the cases giving details of the deliveries is given in the subjoined table, As in previous years, the outstanding features have been the abnormal number (25.5%) suffering from varicose veins, and from constipation, (32.5%) Pyorrhoea and septic teeth (29%) continue to be very prevalent defects for the treatment of which, I regret to say, there is still no proper provision.

Notwithstanding the rationing restrictions, the health of the women has on the whole continued to be good. This is no doubt largely due to the Government scheme for ensuring to expectant mothers a liberal supply of liquid milk and of eggs. The shortage of fruit had been relieved by the supply of vitamins in tablet form.

The friendly co-operation of the Matron and Staff of the Heckmondwike Maternity Home has been much appreciated and has contributed to the success of the Clinic. I should like to pay a tribute to the work of Nurse Holmes whose loyal service and tactful handling of the patients has been of the greatest assistance.

Agnes W. Jervis
M.A., M.B., Ch.B."

Health Visiting.

Number of Visits paid during the Year by the Health Visitor

(a)	To Expectant Mothers	First Visits	33
		Total Visits	57
(b)	To Children under 1 year	First Visits	122
		Total Visits	396
(c)	To Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	Total	" 663

Visits to cases of	Tuberculosis	8
	Still-birth	4
	Measles	76
	Whooping Cough	35
	Chicken Pox	11
	Pneumonia	5
	Mumps	11
	Miscellaneous	3

Total Visits as Health Visitor 1,269.

School Nursing Duties.

Visits to Children in their homes	82
Visits to Schools	54
Children examined in school	2648.

School Clinic. The West Riding County Council is the administrative Authority in this area for School Medical Services, including the School Clinic. By arrangement with Heckmondwike Urban District Council the services of the Health Visitor are available as School Nurse. The Medical Officer of Health attends weekly for consultation.

Number of Scholars who attended the Clinic	954
Total attendances	3,071
Number examined by Medical Officer	893

Infant Welfare Centre.

Total number of attendances during the year

By infants under 1 year	980
By children aged 1 to 5 years	392

Total number of children who attended the centre for the first time during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were

Under one year of age	103
Between 1 and 5 years	18

Total number of children attending the Centre during the year who at the end of the year were

Under one year	85
Aged 1 - 5 years	154

Milk(Mothers & Children Order,1918) Under this Order, the Council has distributed 13 lbs. of dried milk to one child at a cost of £1. 1. 8. The issue of National Dried Milk through the Government's milk scheme has met the needs of the many cases who would otherwise have been provided for by the 1918 Order.

Child Life Protection. The Health Visitor, who acts as Visitor for this purpose, has had no call on her services during 1941.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1941, 166 Notifications were received in respect of Infectious Disease(excluding Tuberculosis), distributed as follows.

x	Scarlet Fever	14.
	Whooping Cough	50.
x	Diphtheria	1.
	Measles	88.
	Acute Pneumonia	6.
x	Cerebrospinal Fever	2.
x	Acute Poliomyelitis	nil
x	Acute Encephalitis	nil
	Dysentery	nil
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	nil
	Puerperal Pyrexia	2
x	Enteric Fever	nil
x	Erysipelas	3
x	Smallpox	nil

The features of interest are the high incidence of Measles in the first four months, and of Whooping Cough in the remaining months of the year, and the fact that there was only one case of Diphtheria. The diseases indicated by a cross are a guide to the general level of health, and in this district notifications of these cases are recorded in one register, the remainder being recorded in other registers (Measles and Whooping Cough were not notifiable until October, 1939). It is possible to look back over the register referred to, and survey past years as far back as 1910; in 1941, the total of notifications of the diseases marked with a cross was 20; in the preceeding years, this figure has been as low as 9, (in 1939) and as high as 112 (in 1933). The more usual total is between 20 and 40, so that the year under review is a "low average" one for this group of illnesses. Members will be able to compare 1941 with 1940 by reference to the report for that year; I thought it would be more interesting to compare 1941, the second full year of the present Great War, with 1916, the corresponding year of the earlier Great War. The figures for that year are given below:-

Scarlet Fever	11.
Diphtheria	9
Enteric Fever	3
Erysipelas	5

TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven new cases in all were notified during the year, made up as follows:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 9	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis 2
(Males 7, Females 2)	(Males 2)

At the end of the year, the figures of cases remaining on the register were

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 16	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis 8
(Males 10, Females 6)	(Males 7, Female 1)

The register in present use does not go back before 1927, so that no comparison can be made with 1916. From 1927 onwards, the annual total of new cases notified varied between 4 and 13, usually between 6 and 8, so that 1941 was at the higher end of the scale. The only point of note is that there has not been the increase in incidence in young females that was anticipated under present conditions.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

Water Supply. An adequate presentation of all aspects of this subject would be a lengthy matter; too brief a report might well be misleading; comment is therefore deferred until the post-War Annual Report, but a summary of the bacteriological reports from the County Laboratory is given below.

Samples of water taken during 1941.

Source of Sample.	Total	Numbers of Samples containing B.Coli.													
		B. Coli per 100 ml.													
		Presumptive						Confirmatory Faecal (Eijkman)							
		1	2	6	9	16	17	Over 180	0	1	2	3	8	16	25
Untreated:- Broadstone Res.	12	2		1		1	1	1	2		1		1	1	1
Treated:- Inlet Whitley Res.	18														
Outlet Whitley Res.	7	1							1						
Re-chlorinated before being supplied:- Outlet Whitley Res.	15	5		1	1	1			4		3				
As supplied to towns in bulk:- Staincliffe	60	1	5	1					5	1		1			
	112	9	5	3	1	2	1	1	12	1	4	1	1	1	1

* - One sample showing 1 Presumptive B. Coli per ml. was not subjected to Eijkman Test.

Drainage and Sewerage. I am indebted to the Surveyor for the following Report:-

Drainage and Sewerage: There has been no extension to the Council's Drainage and Sewerage during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

2569 loads of Domestic Refuse were burned in the Destructor and 30 loads were tipped at the Sewage Works.

In addition 357 loads of Trade Refuse were burned in the Destructor.

Note:- The average weight of a load of refuse is 17½cwts.

During the year Clinkers were tipped as follows:-

New North Road Tip - 1026 loads
Sewage Farm - 72 loads

The dust bins were emptied weekly and the ashpits approximately monthly.

Two motor vehicles are employed full time in the Scavenging Dept: namely:-

A 30cwt. Morris Tipping wagon and a Morris 7 cub. yds. standard model Refuse Collecting Van

Tuberculosis in Heckmondwike, 1941.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	1%
55	2%	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	8	2	2	1	3	-	-	1

%Note Two of the cases were not notified, but their previous existence was ascertained from the death returns.

IMMUNISATION.

Heckmondwike has always been to the forefront in this matter, since commencing Immunisation in October,1932. Since that date, the records show that 1,258 children have been immunised at the Clinic, 71 during the year under review. The West Riding C.C.'s scheme goes a stage further, however, for it provides for the inoculation of children by their own doctors. The full record for 1941 is therefore below:-

Immunised by Medical Officer of Health
Immunised by own Doctor
TOTAL.

under 5.	over 5.
55	16
17	14
72	30

